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WHOLE NO. 1818.

## Hawaiian Gazette.

SEMI-WEEKLY.

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RUBBER  
STAMPS  
AT THE GAZETTE OFFICE.

## OLDEST ON RECORD

Life History of Oldest Person in  
Hawaii Nei.

### KEPOOLELE APAU, 124 YEARS OLD

Familiar With Earliest  
Events in History.

Visited Kilauea Volcano With Ka-  
piolani I—Trained by the  
Missionaries.

After passing Smith street, walking  
on the mauka side of King, one no-  
tices a number of dingy, muddy alleys.  
In the second one from the bridge  
there is a relic of the early days of  
the Hawaiian Islands. Walk through  
the alley, and when you get to the rear  
of the store facing King street, there  
is another passage way, narrower than  
the one which leads from King street,  
to a collection of old tumble down cot-  
tages occupied by Hawaiians.

If you want to find and converse  
with the oldest inhabitant of the Is-  
lands, turn into this narrow way and  
stop at the two-story house on the  
left. It is an old place, so old that  
the date of the erection of it is almost  
forgotten by the people who live in it  
or in the cottages around. On the up-  
per veranda an old koa bedstead stands  
exposed to the Kona winds and rains  
of the winter months. A bit of bed-  
ding and a bunk, at some time used  
by the younger generation of Hawai-  
ians, has been cast aside for the Ha-  
waiian of the old school, is not a be-  
liever in soft beds; a mat on the floor  
has greater attractions than the most  
modern spring mattress.

On the lower floor the house is divid-  
ed into three rooms: a large one in  
the center and flanked on either side  
by two small ones. Here the family  
eat and sleep; the cooking is done on  
a kerosene tin in the yard.

On a mat in the largest of the three  
rooms a reporter for the Advertiser  
found the old woman. She piped an  
"Aloha" to her visitors and took their  
hands with the grasp of a girl of 20.  
She is not a beautiful woman, though  
the traditions of her family aver that  
she was noted for her charms in her  
youth. The hand of Time, however,  
has seared her face and left many  
wrinkles as evidence of the years' she  
has passed through. Being to an ex-  
tent deprived of her hearing it was  
with difficulty that one in the party  
who spoke Hawaiian, could make him-  
self understood. She was willing to  
talk, and she was able, but she must  
be allowed to go on in her own way  
without being bored with questions.

Mr. Atkinson, General Inspector of  
Census, made several visits subse-  
quently, and investigated the case of  
the woman, who is supposed to be any-  
where from 120 to 124 years of age. He  
tells his story in his own inimitable  
way.

"Among the census returns received  
in my office were many which gave  
ages of natives varying from 100 to 110  
or so. These cases I had investigated  
by the district superintendents, but  
when I came across an old lady in  
Honolulu who claimed to be 124 years  
of age, I thought it was time to make  
investigations on my own account.

"To carry out this investigation I  
asked Prof. Alexander and Mrs. Na-  
kuina to accompany me. Prof. Alexan-  
der has a wide-world reputation as an  
historian of the Islands, as a man of  
exact thought and of the highest cul-  
ture. Mrs. Nakuina is an Hawaiian  
lady of high cultivation, both in Eng-  
lish and her own language, and has  
also a very thorough knowledge of the  
history of the country. For myself,  
my training as a newspaper editor has  
made me ready to watch facts, and a  
long period of work as Inspector Gen-  
eral of Schools has forced me to value  
evidence and weigh it carefully.

"I give the above statement, because  
I wish the deductions we have made to  
bear the stamp of exactitude. The  
case being a peculiar one and likely to  
be doubted.

"On entering the house we found the  
old lady sitting up on the floor. She  
was attended by two women, one of  
whom was the wife of a grandson.  
She was very deaf and though not  
blind, could not see very clearly, though  
when I held a dollar in my hand she  
saw it, put out her hand for it, and  
placed it in her pocket. This was at  
the close of the interview, but I men-  
tion it here to show what the old lady's  
faculties were.

"Prof. Alexander, after some preli-  
minary remarks, in order not to alarm  
the old lady, suggested a number of  
historical questions, which were put by  
Mrs. Nakuina. From those we learned  
that she remembered the abolition of  
idolatry, that she remembered the war  
in that connection. She stated that  
she was a married woman and an at-  
tendant of Kapiolani I, when the lat-  
ter descended into the crater of Kil-  
auea and broke the tabu, and that her  
name was changed from Kepoolele to

Apu in consequence of the event. She  
then (her ideas coming more quickly  
as she continued talking) told us that  
she remembered Keoua being killed at  
Kawaihae. This occurred in 1791. The  
event is thus described in Alexander's  
History of the Hawaiian People, on  
page 132, which says:

"Toward the end of the year 1791  
two of Kamehameha's chief counselors,  
Kamanawa and Keaweheulu, were  
sent on an embassy to Keoua at Ka-  
huku in Kau. Keoua's chief warrior  
urged him to put them to death, which  
he indignantly refused to do.

"By smooth speeches and fair  
promises they persuaded him to go to  
Kawaihae and have an interview with  
Kamehameha, in order to put an end  
to the war, which had lasted nine years.  
Accordingly he set out with his own  
double canoe, accompanied by Keawe-  
heulu, in another canoe, and followed  
by friends and retainers in other canoes.

"As they approached the landing  
at Kawaihae, Kamehameha surrounded  
Keoua's canoe with a number of armed  
men. As Kamehameha relates: "Seeing  
Kamehameha on the beach, Keoua  
called out to him: 'Here I am,' to  
which he replied: 'Rise up and come  
here, that we may know each other.'"

"As Keoua was in the act of leaping  
ashore, Kamehameha killed him with a  
spear. All the men in Keoua's canoe  
and in the canoes of his immediate  
company were slaughtered but one.  
But when the second division ap-  
proached Kamehameha gave orders to  
stop the massacre. The bodies of the  
slain were then laid upon the altar of  
Puukohola as an offering to the blood-  
thirsty deity of Kukailimoku. That  
of Keoua had been previously baked in  
an oven at the foot of the hill as a last  
indignity. This treacherous murder  
made Kamehameha master of the  
whole Island of Hawaii, and was the  
first step toward the consolidation of  
the group under one Government. But,  
as Fornander says: "We may admire  
the edifice whose foundation he (Ka-  
mehehameha) laid, but we must note that  
one of its corner stones is laid in blood."

"Finally she volunteered the infor-  
mation that she remembered the dig-  
ging of the well in Kau, and that she  
was a child at the time, similar to a  
child running about the house, a child  
of between 6 and 7. This event oc-  
curred in 1781, and is described in  
Fornander's History.

"This would make her 122 years old,  
according to exact calculation, but it is  
quite permissible to allow her a couple  
of years more, as she claims.

"I followed up another method of  
investigation and inquired how many  
children she had, tracing their descen-  
dants. This I was enabled to do to  
the fifth generation. Allowing the or-  
dinary 30 years for a generation, four  
generations would give 120 years, and  
we can easily allow four years for the  
fifth, bringing out her age at what she  
claims by an entirely different method  
of investigation. We were, therefore,  
satisfied that the old lady had spoken  
the truth.

"What a curious link with the past  
she is. She must have been a little  
toddling child when Capt. Cook came  
to the Islands. She has seen the mon-  
archy of Hawaii consolidated and she  
has seen its fall. She remains today a  
monument of the past, but one which  
must soon glide away and pass to the  
great unknown."

We certify that the above statement  
is correct.

L. M. M. NAKUINA,  
W. D. ALEXANDER.

Mrs. Nakuina, at Mr. Atkinson's  
request, visited the old lady on several  
occasions, and has elicited the follow-  
ing facts:

### THE HISTORY OF KEPOOLELE APAU.

"She was born in Keahialaka, in  
Puna, Hawaii, and was about 6 years  
old when Kamehameha made the at-  
tempt to sink a well at Kalaie, in Kau.  
"Kepoolele, her first name, was  
called after a chief, Kaiaikaulani,  
brother to Haaloa, who was Kaahu-  
manu's mother. This Kaiaikaulani  
was accused of having caused the death  
of some high chiefs by sorcery, and a  
petition was made to the King to have  
his head cut off as a dangerous char-  
acter, hence the name Kepoolele (the  
dissevered head).

"Her second name of Apau, by which  
she has been known longest, was given  
to her in commemoration of Kapiolani's  
visit to the crater of Kilauea, and  
her defiance to Pele, when it was gen-  
erally prophesied that Kapiolani would  
be swallowed bodily by Pele for her  
temerity. Apau means 'you will be  
ate up.' She was a woman grown at  
the time she received the name.

"Her father's name was Kapa, after-  
ward Piena. Kapa was called after the  
mother-of-pearl fish-hook of Kaleipuu  
(otherwise Kalaniopu). Kapa was  
born during a fishing expedition of the  
King of that name, Kapa's father be-  
ing a head fisherman of Puna at the  
time and thus the name to commemora-  
te that visit of the King. Her moth-  
er's name was Kanealoa. Her mother  
was a fisherwoman.

"During childhood she lived mostly  
in Puna, with occasional visits to Hilo,  
and more rarely to Kau. She distinct-  
ly remembers seeing Kamehameha  
during the attempt to sink the well at  
Kalaie. Also remembered Keoua's last  
visit to Puna to raise recruits to go to  
war with Kamehameha, just before he  
was induced to go meet the latter at  
Kawaihae, where he was treacherous-  
ly put to death and offered in sacrifice  
for the dedication of the Heiau at  
Puukohola. The incident of Keoua's  
visit was fixed on her mind by the extra  
efforts made by her father to find un-  
known hiding places, in which to stow  
away his family, so they would not be  
discovered by the King's messengers,  
and thus be compelled to betray his  
own. All the well known caves and

usual places of resort being useless for  
that purpose.

"Apau was a full grown woman when  
Kapiolani and Nahi went from Kona  
to Kau to cut sandalwood. Nahi re-  
mained in Kau with the workmen, but  
Kapiolani extended her trip to Hilo by  
way of Puna, where she saw and took  
a liking to the subject of this sketch,  
and made an alkane of her (a friend  
with privileges of an own sister—a  
sort of second self), and according to  
the custom of those days, took her back  
with her on her return to Kona. Apau  
did not see Puna again for many years.

"Kamike, the daughter-in-law of  
Apau, tells of the family tradition of  
Apau's great beauty as a young woman  
and up to the time she was disfigured  
by being poisoned. Her personal beau-  
ty was such that Kapiolani ordered her  
hair cut and combed to fall evenly  
over her face to her nose (a sort of an-  
cient forerunner to the modern bangs),  
and she was required by her august  
friend and mistress to always dress  
her hair in that style, that is falling  
like a veil before and half way down  
her face.

"The cautious chiefs, having fears  
as to the firmness and stability of her  
lord's recent conversion to Christian-  
ity and prudently thought, no doubt,  
that the constant and familiar pres-

"In Honolulu she first lived in Kaeo's  
lot on Maunakea street, on the Wai-  
kiki side, between King and Hotel.  
She, with others, washed for the ship-  
ping and also sewed for a living, hav-  
ing been thoroughly taught in those  
domestic duties in the household of  
Kapiolani, as well as during her serv-  
ice under the missionaries.

"After some years she moved to  
Kaione's lot on the Ewa side of the  
same street, and lived with her sister  
and brother-in-law.

"After some years they moved to  
Kapuukolo, below King street. Here  
a woman, called Paele, who, it is be-  
lieved, is still living and at Ewa, was  
her friend and co-laborer in the wash  
business.

"This Paele was the first native to  
be taken with smallpox on the Ha-  
waiian Islands. Apau claims Paele got  
the infection from a bundle of clothes  
from the ships for which they washed.  
Every one around them was stricken  
with the disease, but Apau escaped  
entirely, though she continued to live  
in the infected quarter, to care for or  
to prepare for burial her relatives and  
friends.

"The old lady made the remark when  
telling of her immunity from small-  
pox that God did not care to inflict  
her with that disease, as she was al-



KEPOOLELE APAU, 124 YEARS OLD.

(Sketched by Harry Roberts from a photograph by J. J. Williams.)

ence of unusual beauty was rather dis-  
tracting and tended to weaken the  
good and virtuous resolutions of a  
chief heretofore accustomed to a  
life gratified as soon as expressed.

"Apau was converted to Christianity  
with Kapiolani, and both were taught  
letters along with the whole house-  
hold. They were first taught from a  
haole (English) book and afterwards  
from a native one. She has been a  
constant reader of the Bible until about  
two years ago when her sight failed,  
and when in the mood can repeat al-  
most whole chapters of the Bible.

"Kapiolani would not permit her  
protege to have a husband for many  
years, but after repeated entreaties  
by a member of her own household  
added to those of Apau herself, she  
consented.

"Just before the marriage was to  
take place Kapiolani, who was a cook  
in the family of the missionary who  
was Kapiolani's religious teacher, told  
his master he had obtained favors  
proper for a husband from Apau and  
she ought to become his wife, as he  
loved her.

"The master pleaded Kawika's cause  
with Kapiolani and Nahi, and al-  
though Apau strenuously denied the  
fact of favors given or received from  
Kawika, she was ordered by that very  
religious and perhaps over-zealous lady  
to marry Kawika.

"She had to obey, and was married to  
him, but always resented the fact of  
having to live with a man she did not  
love, who, she maintains to the present  
day, told a lie in the matter of her  
conduct, just to obtain her.

"Three children were the fruit of  
that marriage, the last a girl, Makui,  
lived to womanhood and died about 20  
years ago. Soon after the birth of the  
girl she had a chance to visit her pa-  
rents at Puna, and went there. She did  
not return to her husband, who finally  
obtained a divorce from her.

"After their divorce they became  
quite friendly. He sent her a present  
of some raw fish, which she claims  
was poisoned, for as soon as she ate  
of it her lips and nose began to itch  
and then swelled.

"In a little while the swelling ex-  
tended all over her face and head, and  
was only relieved when running sores  
formed. She was sick a very long  
time. She finally came to Hilo for med-  
ical treatment. Her husband was liv-  
ing there, and the missionaries got  
after them both and induced them to  
consent to live together again.

"They were remarried by Mr. Coan,  
and the child now living, Kalanao, was  
the fruit of that union. Apau was by  
this time permanently disfigured. The  
child was left with the grandparents  
while the father and mother went to  
Waimea, Kohala, in the service of the  
missionary.

"After some time a chief died in Ho-  
nolulu, and Apau came to the wedding.  
She seized her opportunity and never  
returned to her husband.

ready disfigured by the man whom the  
chiefs, acting by advice of their relig-  
ious teachers, had compelled her to  
take, and that he knew she had suf-  
fered enough. Her husband, in the  
meantime, had obtained another di-  
vorce from her and remarried.

"When her son, Kalanao, came to  
Honolulu to live, she moved up to  
about where she is living now. Her  
son was born some time before the  
volcanic eruption, when the lava flowed  
to Kumuakahi.

"Apau continued to take in wash-  
ing till very recent years, when the  
Chinamen, having absorbed all that  
business, she confined herself to such  
washing for her son's family and oth-  
er work as was needed. Two years  
ago she slipped in a bath room, where  
some one had been washing clothes,  
and the floor was slippery from soap.  
A bone was dislocated by the fall, and  
she has been a cripple ever since.

"She is getting purlind, but her  
general health is good and her appet-  
ite fair. She is confident that if she  
had not had that fall she would have  
been still able to be useful.

"The writer saw her, on one of the  
visits paid, for the purpose of getting  
her history, pick a patch to pieces on  
the seat of a working man's pants  
with the intention of repairing it, and  
as the old lady was evidently waiting  
for the visitor to leave before going  
on with her work, though urged to  
go on, the latter had perforce to leave,  
though very desirous to see her at  
work. She handled the articles un-  
derstandingly, and as if it was her us-  
ual occupation."

### Population of Japan.

The Official Gazette contains a state-  
ment of the population of Japan at the  
close of last year:

Number of habitations.....	7,935,969
Total population.....	42,270,650
Males.....	21,245,750
Females.....	20,924,870
Nobles (Kwazoku).....	4,162
Former Samurai (Shizoku).....	2,050,145
Commoners (Heimin).....	40,216,314
Foundlings.....	4,242
Unregistered (in prison).....	1,319

Compared with the preceding year,  
these figures show increases of 51,700  
persons.—Japan Mail.

After hearing some friends contin-  
ually praising Chamberlain's Colic,  
Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, Cur-  
tis Fleck, of Anaheim, California, pur-  
chased a bottle of it for his own use  
and is now as enthusiastic over its won-  
derful work as anyone can be. The 25  
and 50 cent sizes for sale by all Drug-  
gists and Dealers; Benson, Smith &  
Co., Agents for Hawaiian Islands.

A perfectly proportioned man weighs  
twenty-eight pounds for every foot of  
his height.

## CAMPAIGN OPENS

Annexation Club Organizes and  
Elects Officers.

### LORRIN A. THURSTON PRESIDENT

Big Attendance at Drill  
Shed Last Night.

Constitution Adopted — Stirring  
Speeches Made by Ardent  
Annexationists.

Honolulu has seen larger and more  
exciting annexation meetings than  
that held Friday evening in the Drill  
Shed, but at none of the meetings held  
in past years has there been a more  
hearty, business-like, political deter-  
mination displayed. When Chairman  
Hartwell called the meeting to order,  
there were fully 500 people in the hall,  
a large proportion of whom were mem-  
bers of the original Annexation Club,  
and also a good number who had come  
to add their names to the list, in order  
that they might join in the good work.

The business of the meeting ran  
along smoothly. Ample time was given  
for discussion, and the general unani-  
mity of opinion demonstrated that the  
majority of those present were not in-  
clined to split hairs on small points.  
The speech-making which interspersed  
the business deliberations was sharp,  
short and to the point, and the en-  
thusiasm reached its highest pitch  
when P. C. Jones declared for annex-  
ation, contract labor or no contract  
labor.

In opening the meeting, Mr. Hart-  
well said:

"Gentlemen of the Annexation Club  
and its Friends:

"At a meeting of the Annexation  
Club last Friday evening a wish was  
expressed that the Club should be so  
organized that its membership should  
be open to friends of annexation gen-  
erally, without regard to any particu-  
lar political or party bias, to enable  
all who believe in that object to asso-  
ciate together to accomplish that pur-  
pose. That wish found expression in a  
motion to the effect that a special com-  
mittee should be appointed to draft a  
constitution to incorporate that idea,  
and to propose that draft at a meet-  
ing which that committee was author-  
ized to call. This meeting is called  
pursuant to that motion, and the report  
of that committee is now in order."

The report and the constitution were  
as follows:

To the Presiding Officer of the Annex-  
ation Club:

The committee appointed to draft a  
constitution and by-laws of the Club  
and submit the same at a meeting of  
the Club, to be called by the commit-  
tee, now report that they have pre-  
pared and herewith submit a draft of  
the constitution, embodying all the es-  
sentials of by-laws which seem to the  
committee to be requisite to accom-  
plish the single purpose of the club,  
which is contemplated by its proposed  
constitution. J. H. FISHER,  
Chairman.

### CONSTITUTION OF THE ANNEXA- TION CLUB OF THE RE- PUBLIC OF HAWAII.

1. Object: The sole object of the  
Club is and shall be to promote and  
advocate the annexation of Hawaii to  
the United States of America, and for  
this end, to enroll as members all  
adult male residents of the Republic  
of Hawaii, irrespective of and entirely  
apart from any political party or be-  
lief, who consider such annexation de-  
sirable, and who are of either aborig-  
inal Hawaiian birth or of American,  
English or European birth or parent-  
age.

2. Membership: Any such person as  
mentioned in Article I may become a  
member by signing the constitution.

3. Officers: The officers of the Club  
shall be elected upon the adoption of  
this constitution, and shall be a presi-  
dent and four vice presidents, a re-  
cording secretary, a treasurer, a finan-  
cial secretary and an Enrollment Com-  
mittee, consisting of seven persons, all  
of which officers being members of the  
Club shall be chosen annually to hold  
office until their successors be chosen  
and accept office. Any vacancy may be  
filled by the officers at any meeting of  
the Club. The officers shall constitute  
the Executive Committee of the  
Club. The officers may appoint sub-  
committees among themselves.

4. Meetings: The Club shall meet in  
Honolulu on the first Tuesday of each  
month and the first Tuesday of June,  
annually, for choice of officers and  
such other business as shall properly  
come before it, and at such other times  
as shall be decided at a meeting of the  
Board of Officers, or at the written re-  
quest of not less than 20 members.

5. Quorum: A quorum at any meet-  
ing of the Club shall consist of the of-  
ficers calling such meeting, and of not  
less than 30 members besides. A quor-  
um at any meeting of the officers shall  
consist of the officers calling the same,  
and of other officers, so as to form a  
majority of all the officers.

6. Branch Clubs: Branch Clubs in  
the several election districts may be